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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Since 9 November, my Government and mission have done our utmost to keep the Security Council informed on the major hostilities being directed against the Bihać region safe area, especially cross-border hostilities by the so-called Krajina Serbs emanating from within the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in the Republic of Croatia. Formal communications from our Government to the Council on the issue included letters dated as follows, and pointing out, respectively, that:

- 9 November; two planes from the UNPAs firing missiles into north-west Bihać, confirmed by the United Nations spokesman;

- 11 November (from Foreign Minister Ljubljankić); "synchronized activities of the Serb forces from both the territories of our Republic and the UNPA zones in neighbouring Croatia". Also pointed out that: "For the second consecutive day the safe area of Bihać is subject to attacks from the air by the aggressor's forces planes that take off from Udbine airport in the UNPA zones in the Republic of Croatia.";

- 11 November (two letters from President Izetbegovic); air and artillery attacks from the UNPAs, the second letter calling for an emergency session of the Security Council;

- 14 November; missile attacks on Cazin and Bihać by the so-called Bosnian Serbs, the massing of "Krajina Serb" troops near the town of Pljesivica, and the occupation of two areas within the Bihać pocket safe area by Krajina Serb forces;

- 16 November (two letters); attacks from the area of Slunj and Plitvice Lakes and Lokovo Mountains as well as separate attacks from UNPAs against Velika Kladusa, heavy shelling of Velika Kladusa and Bihać by multiple rocket launchers and guided missiles supplemented by "Krajina Serb" helicopter gunships, combined Serb forces breaching of Bosnian defence lines and capturing of Siljikovaca village, and the illegal fuel shipments to the "Krajina Serbs";

- 18 November; two "Krajina Serb" aircraft dropping cassette bombs and napalm, as well as Volhov missile attacks;

- 19 November; two planes from the UNPAs attacking civilians and endangering United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldiers in Cazin;

- 20 November; intensified "Krajina Serb" offensive against Bihać with infantry, tanks and artillery, and the taking of several villages by the "Krajina Serb" forces;

- 21 November; intensified "Krajina Serb" attack against the Bihać pocket safe area, with 10,000 shells fired from the UNPAs and destruction and occupation of several villages in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the "Krajina Serb" forces;

Also, formal communications to the Council from the Croatian Government and Mission on the issue confirmed the above violations as well as others.

Furthermore, the Security Council in its:

- 13 November presidential statement (S/PRST/1994/66) confirmed the "Krajina Serb" cross-border violations;

- 18 November presidential statement (S/PRST/1994/69) again confirmed "Krajina Serb" cross-border violations, characterized by shelling, it also confirmed the "Krajina Serb" impeding of UNPROFOR freedom of movement and "Krajina Serb" obstruction of humanitarian aid;

- 19 November Security Council resolution (resolution 958 (1994)) reaffirming the potential necessity of close air support in the UNPAs as a result of continued "Krajina Serb" cross-border violations.

In the light of the above information and the subsequent Security Council actions, it is beyond a doubt that the "Krajina Serb" forces have been fully engaged in cross-border attacks against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as having at least a significant number of forces on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is no way that the UNPROFOR command cannot know of these forces.

Serb forces, no matter what kind, are only 1 kilometre from Bihać town and its 50,000 inhabitants. The cross-border and other shelling attacks continue against the entire region, but especially against Bihać town, threatening the region's biggest population centre as well as the peace-keepers therein.

If the UNPROFOR command has not received calls for help from the Bangladeshi peace-keepers trapped in the pocket, my Government has.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative